Reclamation of Land Given to Sea Bird Project

1771. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sea Bird Naval Authorities has been handed over 17 acres of port land by the State Government of Karnataka long ago on the assurance that 17 acres of land will be reclaimed by the Sea Bird Naval Authorities which will be handed over to the Port Department of Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the 17 acres of land has been reclaimed as assured;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by when this 17 acres land will be reclaimed and handed over to the Port Department of State Government of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Land reclamation work can be taken up by Project Sea Bird Authorities only after the Karwar Port Authorities have obtained the mandatory environmental clearances. Karwar Port Authorities have been asked to obtain the said clearances.

(e) in view of (d) above, no definite time frame can be given.

Joint Naval Exercise with US, French and Russian Navy

1772. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Navy is likely to take part in landmark exercises with nuclear powered submarines and aircraft carriers belonging to the US, French and Russian Navies over the next three months;